

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 12/03/09.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-17, 20-37 are pending in the application.

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 07/29/08 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of Patent 7,512,622 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative James J. De Carlo, on March 25, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

- **Cancel claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 9.**

- **Claim 7 has been amended as:**

A computer-implemented method comprising:
generate an interface at a site on a network for display on a user computer, a
plurality of media files provided by a plurality of media file providers being
made available to said user computer via said network site using said
interface;
define a set of metadata attributes relating to said media files, each of said
metadata attributes of the set having a respective predetermined location
in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider;
receive said plurality of media files provided by said plurality of media file
providers via the network, the received media files for use with said
interface;
associate metadata attributes from within said defined set of metadata attributes
with said plurality of media files, wherein said plurality of media files is
provided by the plurality of media file providers;
compiling a data file that contains one or more unique identifiers which identify
one or more media files, the data file being compiled automatically based
on criteria chosen by one of a plurality of users;
utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface,
said interface generated at a site on a network, said media files being
made available to a user computer via said network site using said
interface; and

map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, such that in said interface each of said associated media attributes appears in its respective predetermined same location for all of said media files and media file providers, wherein said metadata attributes comprises a title for the media file and one or more of a description, duration and an expiration of the media file;

determining whether a user-selectable autoplay function is engaged for a given one of said plurality of users;

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be engaged, determining a sequence in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to one or more media files based on an ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file; and

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be disengaged, determining the sequence in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more media files based on input from the user and without regard to the ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file,

wherein said media content is experienced using an interface that comprises: a channel description portion to display a plurality of channel selections corresponding to the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers for selection by said user;

a show description portion to display one or more show selections, and in response to user selection one of the channel selections said show description portion displays only those show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection;

an episode description portion to display one or more episode selections, and in response to user selection one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays only those episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection;

and

a viewer to view media file content at the user's computer, the media file content corresponding to the channel, show and episode selections made by the user using the interface.

- **Cancel claims 13, 14:**
- **Claim 12 has been amended as:**

A system comprising:

one or more servers configured to:

generate an interface at a site on a network for display on a user computer, a plurality of media files provided by a plurality of media file providers being made available to said user computer via said network site using said interface;

define a set of metadata attributes relating to said media files, each of said metadata attributes of the set having a respective predetermined location in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider;
receive said plurality of media files provided by said plurality of media file providers via the network, the received media files for use with said interface;
associate metadata attributes from within said defined set of metadata attributes with said plurality of media files, wherein said plurality of media files is provided by the plurality of media file providers;
compile a data file that contains one or more unique identifiers which identify one or more pieces of content, the data file being automatically compiled based on criteria chosen by one of a plurality of users;
utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface, said interface generated at a site on a network, said media files being made available to a user computer via said network site using said interface; and
map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, such that in said interface each of said associated media attributes appears in its respective predetermined same location for all of said media files and media file providers, wherein said metadata attributes comprises a title for the media file and one or more of a description, duration and an expiration of the media file;

determine whether a user-selectable autoplay function is engaged for a given one of said plurality of users;

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be engaged,

determine a sequence in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more pieces of content based on an ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file; and

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be disengaged,

determine the sequence in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more pieces of content based on input from the user and without regard to the ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file,

wherein said media content is experienced using an interface that comprises:

a channel description portion to display a plurality of channel selections corresponding to the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers for selection by said user;

a show description portion to display one or more show selections, and in response to user selection of one of the channel selections said show description portion displays only those show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection;

an episode description portion to display one or more episode selections, and in response to user selection of one of the show selections said

episode description portion displays only those episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection; and a viewer to view media file content at the user's computer, the media file content corresponding to the channel, show and episode selections made by the user using the interface.

- **Cancel claims 20-24:**

- **Claim 17 has been amended as:**

A computer program product embodying computer code and comprising a computer-readable storage medium tangibly storing computer code thereon, said computer code to configure one or more processors to:

generate an interface at a site on a network for display on a user computer, a plurality of media files provided by a plurality of media file providers being made available to said user computer via said network site using said interface;

define a set of metadata attributes relating to said media files, each of said metadata attributes of the set having a respective predetermined location in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider;

receive said plurality of media files provided by said plurality of media file providers via the network, the received media files for use with said interface;

associate metadata attributes from within said defined set of metadata attributes with said plurality of media files, wherein said plurality of media files is provided by the plurality of media file providers;

compile a data file that contains one or more unique identifiers which identify one

or more pieces of content, the data file being automatically compiled based on criteria chosen by one of a plurality of users;

utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface,

said interface generated at a site on a network, said media files being made available to a user computer via said network site using said interface; and

map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, such that in said interface each of said associated media attributes appears in its respective predetermined same location for all of said media files and media file providers, wherein said metadata attributes comprises a title for the media file and one or more of a description, duration and an expiration of the media file;

determine whether a user-selectable autoplay function is engaged for a given one of said plurality of users;

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be engaged,

determine a sequence in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more pieces of content based on an ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file; and

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be disengaged, determine the sequence in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more pieces of content based on input from the user and without regard to the ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file, wherein said media content is experienced using an interface that comprises: a channel description portion to display a plurality of channel selections corresponding to the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers for selection by said user; a show description portion to display one or more show selections, and in response to user selection of one of the channel selections said show description portion displays only those show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection; an episode description portion to display one or more episode selections, and in response to user selection of one of the show selections said episode description portion displays episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection; and a viewer to view media file content at the user computer, the media file content corresponding to the channel, show and episode selections made by the user using the interface.

- **Cancel claims 26-30:**

• **Claim 25 has been amended as:**

A system comprising:

one or more servers configured to:

compile a plurality of media files for use with an interface, said plurality of media files compiled from a plurality of media file providers;
generate an interface at a site on a network for display on a user computer, said interface comprising a region to display media content of the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers and being made available to said user computer via said network site, a region to display selectable indicia corresponding to one or more playlists, a region to display indicia of each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists, and a region to display selectable indicia of an autoplay function configured to control an order in which each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists is to be experienced using said interface, wherein said autoplay function is configured to control whether said order in which each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists is determined based on contents of said selected one of said playlists or based on user input, and wherein said user input comprises selection of one or more of said indicia of

said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists;

authenticate said user's authorization to access certain media content;
define a set of metadata attributes relating to said media files, each of said metadata attributes of the set having a respective predetermined location in said interface regardless of the media file or media file provider;

receive said plurality of media files provided by said plurality of media file providers via said network, the received media files for use with said interface;

associate metadata attributes from the set of metadata attributes with each of said received media files;

utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface, said interface generated at a site on a network, said media files being made available to a user computer via said network site using said interface; and

map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, so that in said interface for said user each of said associated metadata attributes appears at its respective predetermined location in said interface for all of said media files and media file providers, wherein said metadata

attributes comprises a title for the media file and one or more of a description, duration and an expiration of the media file,
filtering said plurality of media files based on said user's authorization to access certain media content such that said user interface includes selectable indicia for only those media files corresponding to said certain media content,

wherein said interface comprises:

a channel description portion to display a plurality of one or more channel selections corresponding to the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers for selection by said user;

a show description portion to display one or more show selections, and in response to user selection of one of the channel selections said show description portion displays only those show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection;

an episode description portion to display one or more episode selections, and in response to user selection of one of the show selections said episode description portion displays only those episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection; and

a viewer to view media file content at the user computer, the media file content corresponding to the channel, show and episode selections made by the user using the interface.

- **Cancel claims 32, 33, 37:**

- **Claim 31 has been amended as:**

A computer-implemented method comprising:

compiling a plurality of media files for use with an interface, said plurality of media files compiled from a plurality of media file providers;
generating an interface at a site on a network for display on a user computer, said interface comprising a region to display media content of a plurality of media files provided by a plurality of media file providers and being made available to said user computer via said network site, a region to display selectable indicia corresponding to one or more playlists, a region to display indicia of each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists, and a region to display selectable indicia of an autoplay function configured to control an order in which each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists is to be experienced using said interface, wherein said autoplay function is configured to control whether said order in which each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists is determined based on contents of said selected one of said playlists or based on user input, and wherein said user input comprises selection of one or more of said indicia of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists; and

authenticating said user's authorization to access certain media content; defining a set of metadata attributes relating to said media files, each of said metadata attributes of the set having a respective predetermined location in said interface regardless of the media file or media file provider;

receiving said plurality of media files provided by said plurality of media file providers via said network, the received media files for use with said interface;

associating metadata attributes from the set of metadata attributes with each of said plurality of media files, wherein the metadata attributes comprises a title for each media file;

utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface, said interface generated at a site on a network, said media files being made available to a user computer via said network site using said interface; and

mapping each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, so that in said interface each of said associated metadata attributes appears at its respective predetermined location in said interface for all of said media files and said media file providers wherein said metadata attributes comprises a title for the media file and one or more of a description, duration and an expiration of the media file; and

filtering said plurality of media files based on said user's authorization to access certain media content such that said user interface includes selectable indicia for only those media files corresponding to said certain media content,

wherein said interface comprises:

a channel description portion to display a plurality of channel selections corresponding to the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers for selection by said user;

a show description portion to display one or more show selections, and in response to user selection of one of the channel selections said show description portion displays only those show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection;

an episode description portion to display one or more episode selections, and in response to user selection of one of the show selections said episode description portion displays only those episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection; and

a viewer to view media file content at the user computer, the media file content corresponding to the channel, show and episode selections made by the user using the interface.

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 7, 8, 10-12, 15-17, 25, 31, 34, 35, 36, now renumbered as 1-13, are allowable over the prior arts of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention is directed to a solution to presenting media interface and navigation tools for content provided from a plurality of sources.

Claim 7 recites, or similarly recites, in combination with the remaining elements, the steps of:

associate metadata attributes from within said defined set of metadata attributes with said plurality of media files, wherein said plurality of media files is provided by the plurality of media file providers; compiling a data file that contains one or more unique identifiers which identify one or more media files, the data file being compiled automatically based on criteria chosen by one of a plurality of users; utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface, said interface generated at a site on a network, said media files being made available to a user computer via said network site using said interface; and map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, such that in said interface each of said associated media attributes appears in its respective predetermined same location for all of said media files and media file providers, wherein said metadata attributes comprises a title for the media file and one or more of a description, duration and an expiration of the media file;

The closest prior art, McElhatten et al. (U.S. Pat.7,174,126) shows a substantially similar invention that relates to providing an interactive programming guide to the network broadcast programming networks, but McElhatten does not fairly teach *the interface generated at a site on a network in combination with the remaining elements*

as presented in the .amended claim Therefore, McElhatten fails to anticipate the claimed limitations as recited in the hereinabove independent claim 7.

Claim 12 is a system comprising one or more servers configured to perform the method of claim 7, under the same reasons as set forth above, claim 12 is allowable over the prior art of records.

Claim 17 is a computer program product comprising... a computer-readable storage medium ...to configure one or more processors to perform the method of claim 7; therefore, under the same above reasons, claim 17 patentably defies over the cited arts.

Claim 25 recites, or similarly recites, in combination with the remaining elements, the steps of:

wherein said autoplay function is configured to control whether said order in which each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists is determined based on contents of said selected one of said playlists or based on user input, and wherein said user input comprises selection of one or more of said indicia of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists; and

utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface, said interface generated at a site on a network, said media files being made available to a user computer via said network site using said interface; and

mapping each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, so that in said interface each of said associated metadata attributes appears at its respective predetermined location in said interface for all of said media files and said media file providers wherein said metadata attributes comprises a title for the media file and one or more of a description, duration and an expiration of the media file; and

~~filtering said plurality of media files based on said user's authorization to access certain media content such that
said user interface includes selectable indicia for only those media files corresponding to said certain
media content.~~

The closest prior art, McElhatten et al. (U.S. Pat.7,174,126) shows a substantially similar invention that relates to providing an interactive programming guide to the network broadcast programming networks, but McElhatten does not fairly teach *the interface* generated at a site on a network in combination with the remaining elements as presented in the .amended claim Therefore, McElhatten fails to anticipate the claimed limitations as recited in the hereinabove independent claim 25.

Claim 31 is a method claim, is similar in scope to claim 25, under the same above reasons, claim 31 patentably defies over the cited arts.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance”.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-4112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham, can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax number to this Art Unit is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Miranda Le/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2169

March 27, 2009